

Most of the pieces shown were collected by Anni Albers during her visit in Mexico last year and originate therefore to a large extent from that country. Included in the collection are also pieces from Italy, Peru, Bolivia, tapa cloth from the South Seas and three pieces of Egyptian mummy cloth, which are of interest because of the fineness of threads and the closeness of weave.

It is a collection most varied in character. What all of these pieces have in common is their close relationship between material, construction and design, all organically related to each other. This factor determined the choice of the fabrics selected for this collection; it is one toward which we are also striving.

Among the Mexican textiles are some small pieces, such as belts, scarfs, and a charming head-piece, woven by the Chamula Indians. These materials are more somber in color and coarser than most other pieces from Mexico because of the more severe climate in which these people live.

There is a little cross-stitched bag and some woven belts and purses by the Huichol Indians which show remarkable skill and sense of design. An antique silk serape, from a more northern region, is more striking because of its strong figure-background design in black and white.

A small embroidery in black on a white background from Toluca is an example of the insertion of threads in such a manner as to make them an intricate part of the weave itself. There are a number of sashes with interesting fringes, several belts woven in different techniques of double weave, some ribbons to be braided into the hair of the Mexican women, all of these in bright colors which catch the eye immediately.

An antique rebozo is especially fine in weave; the ends are finished to give a lace-like appearance. In the entrance to the exhibition room is a rain coat made out of long pointed palm leaves which overlap on the outside to shed water and are knotted intricately on the inside. White tortilla cloths show raised loops and fine lay-in work.

From Peru are three pre-Columbian pieces as well as several knitted caps with gay figures, a white wool blanket of silk-like quality with stripes in multi-color.

A blanket very similar in its appearance is from Bolivia.

Two pieces in black and white are from Sardinia, Italy. Boldness of design brings them close to the Mexican textiles, even though they are more sophisticated.

The exhibition has been arranged by Willie Joseph and Nancy Dunn. The quietness which has been achieved in the placement of these textiles brought out each piece, despite the great variety.